

THE  
SECRET AND POLITICAL HISTORY  
OF THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION.  
IN TWELVE NUMBERS.

No. 1.

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*NEW HAVEN, CONN.*



THE  
Secret and Political History  
OF THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION  
The Causes Leading Thereto, and the Effects,  
SHOWING HOW  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAME TO BE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES,  
EXPOSING THE SECRET WORKING AND CONSPIRING OF  
THOSE IN POWER,  
AND THE  
MOTIVE AND PURPOSE OF PROLONGING THE WAR FOR FOUR YEARS !

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With Additions and Illustrations.

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By FAYETTE HALL,  
AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER.



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## ⇒ P R E F A C E . ⇐

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To the people of the United States in particular, and to the world in general, this history is most respectfully dedicated.  
My greatest desire is that the time may come, when every person will read it.

It has often, in years past, been remarked and published, that some time in the future a history would be written giving the secret of the treatment of many of the commanding officers, and the cause for the prolongation of the war.

Abbott, in his history, says that "Not until the secret political history of the Rebellion, which unmasks hearts and exhibits motives, shall be written, can this question be fully answered, why General Fremont was treated in the manner in which he was." Charles L. Webster & Co. speak of McClellan's own story as divulging the secret, which puts nearly, or quite, all the blame and responsibility upon Secretary Stanton, and there lies the great mistake. Neither Secretary Stanton, nor his associates in the Cabinet, had but very little, if anything, to do with the mean, unjust, and ungenerous treatment of the generals in command, as the future pages of this history will show. This is written regardless of fear or favor; it is written, not in a spirit of malice or vindictiveness, but in the cause of truth, justice and vindication.

The Lincoln and Republican administration showed no mercy, and spared none, and history will not spare them, but will differ from them in this respect; they falsified, vilified and slandered, while history always adheres strictly to the truth.

This is not written for the benefit of a sectional faction of blind fanatics, but for the world at large, which will pronounce the verdict.

Taking the position, and assuming that the Southern people, the Southern statisticians and historians, are as just, as honorable, as truthful, and as reliable as any other class of people in the world, and believing the whole reasonable world will so concede, when occasion requires, reference to their statistics and their records will be made on an equality with our own.

History goes forth to the world on wings that never tire. If it is false, let it be refuted. If it is truth, let it be accepted and acknowledged, and let the future profit by the sad experience of the past. Well aware that this is the unpopular side of the subject, as appears on the surface, and as well aware that the intelligent, thinking and unprejudiced portion of the people will sustain it, when they know it is the truth, this history is given to them. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." Truth is mighty, and will, in time, assert and sustain itself. If this history is false, it will fall of its own weight. If it is true, then all the forces of the universe cannot crush it.

Disliking long prefaces, and thinking them the most uninteresting part of a book, instead of trying the patience of the reader, will only say, that born in the town of Wallingford, and living most of the time in my native State, Connecticut, my political proclivities gave my first presidential vote to John C. Fremont in 1856, and to Bell and Everett in 1860.

My next vote was for Mr. Tilden, sixteen years after. The reader will perceive that it is not sectional or political feeling which prompts me to write upon the subject.

THE AUTHOR.

# SECRET HISTORY OF THE REBELLION.

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## C H A P T E R I.

NOTWITHSTANDING so much has been said and written of the history that would some time expose the secret working of those in power, during the war of the rebellion, there was not one of those who were first and foremost to express themselves to that effect, who had the remotest idea where the secret lay.

After all the assertions and predictions regarding that secret history, it is doubtful if there is a man living in the United States to-day, who is still looking for, or expecting the history. Abbott, in speaking of the secret history, could only see the ill treatment of one man, (his favorite), General Fremont, but General Fremont was only one of many, who were used and thrown aside when it suited the purpose of the one who desired it. The one who thought it "no time to swap horses while crossing a stream," was himself continually swapping horses.\* History after history of the war has been written, barrels of ink have been shed in fighting the battles over and over again, but not one ray of light has been shed to expose the dark and secret working of that time. Some said that it was from the jealousy of this one, or that one, of the army officers. Some, that it was from bad advisement of the Cabinet, others that it was the influence of speculators, and still others, that it was the opposition of the Copperheads of the North that caused our reverses, and prolonged the war for four years. Now, it was neither the one, nor the other,

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\* In 1864, when the Republicans were looking for a candidate in place of Lincoln, he told them that it was "No time to swap horses while crossing a stream."

and none of the causes to which it has been ascribed. There was very little jealousy manifested by the officers in the army. The Cabinet had but little influence with the President, and there was a time when they were not consulted at all. The speculators had no power, and the Copperheads, so called, who were they?

Although powerless, they were the ones who dared to express themselves in opposition to the usurpation and exercise of a power greater than that possessed by kings and emperors; to acts of injustice, tyranny and cruelty, and to an unnecessary sacrifice of blood and treasure unparalleled since the days of Attila, Calligula and Nero. It was lust for power, and greed of gold, that caused that four years of bloody struggle.

It was Abraham Lincoln's lust for power, and the people's greed for gold, or greenbacks, that permitted it to go on, and while the people, through their avarice, were lost to every sense of principle, honor and justice, the country was ruled by ignorance, superstition, fanaticism, spiritualism and diabolism. There is a secret history connected with those times, and with those in power, which, when given to the public, will be the most astounding and seemingly incredible of anything ever written in this country, if not in the history of the world. Some say that it is too soon to publish it. Others say that it is too late in the day, after so many who were concerned in it are dead and gone.

It is a nation's history, and a nation's history includes the living and the dead, and justice should be done to the memory of the dead, as well as to the living, and honor be given to whom honor is due.

It is the doings of those who have lived and died that make up the world's history, and why should the evil deeds of those who lived and died in this century, and in our own time, be covered, excluded or regarded, more than those who have lived and died in the past centuries? It is said that the deeds of the good live after them. Have not the good suffered from the evil deeds of the bad? Why should we let the bad rest, without attempting to right the wrong they have committed?

Some say that Abraham Lincoln is so enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen that it would be an utter impossibility to change that feeling and sentiment.

That is all wrong. He is not, nor never was, enshrined in the hearts of the intelligence of the country. The cats and the crocodiles of the Nile were enshrined in the hearts of Egypt, and enshrouded in the rags of centuries, but exposure to the elements and to the light of day, crumbles them to dust. Exposure of the dark and secret workings of Abraham Lincoln, and those connected with him, to the light of truth and reason, will show a fabric with as little sense and foundation to commend him to the adoration of the world as the cats and the crocodiles of Egypt. What had Abraham Lincoln done previous to the summer of eighteen sixty-four, when his own party sent an agent to General Rosecrans with an offer of the nomination, which he refused, and when they nominated General Fremont? What did he do after that which commended him to the love and admiration of the people, and enshrined him in their hearts? Was it his secession speeches in Congress in the winter of forty-seven and eight, when his party were going to secede if California was admitted? Was it his clownish triumphal trip to Washington, when he took a circuit through the country, kissing young girls and taking their advice in regard to dressing his neck and raising whiskers? Perhaps it was his advance around Baltimore, and into the Capitol, like a sneak and a coward, leaving his family to come through on the train that was to be wrecked? It may have been his gentlemanly reception and treatment of visitors at the White House, especially Governor Morehead, of Kentucky.\*

Possibly it was the treatment of the thousands of men, women and children that he caused to be dragged from their homes and thrown into prison, where they were kept for months, and finally liberated without having a charge brought against them, and when they sought redress, a Republican Congress passed an act legalizing those acts of despotism and cruelty, and debarring all redress. Whatever it might have

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\* Governor Morehead, one of the most refined and accomplished gentlemen in the country, said that while calling upon the President upon State affairs, that he, Lincoln, sat with his shoe off holding his toes in his hand, and bending them backwards and forwards in an awkward manner, (giving them massage treatment I suppose.) Govenor Morehead was afterwards seized by the Lincoln authorities, and dragged from his house and family, at midnight, in violation of the most sacred laws of the land, and taken to Fort Lafayette, where he was kept for many months, without being allowed to communicate with his friends, denied a trial, and was never informed why he was thus seized."

been, it was not discovered until after he had effected his purpose, was ready to take Richmond and end the war, and called for a fresh force of eight hundred thousand soldiers. And when after sacrificing a million of human lives, and thousands of millions of treasure, J. Wilkes Booth had performed his mission, it was all at once discovered that Abraham Lincoln was the greatest man the world had ever produced, and the greatest character since Jesus Christ, for so his admirers have declared and published to the world.

Notwithstanding all this, there are those who have the audacity to differ from them, and still think that other men have lived, equal at least in honesty and intelligence to Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was associated with spiritualism and mediums. He was under their advice and instruction, both before and after his nomination and election, and during the whole time of his occupancy of the White House. The Spiritualists were the means, through Horace Greeley, of his nomination—as the dark horse—of the convention of 1860.

He consulted them continually, and they told him that the spirit of Attila, King of the Huns, was his controlling spirit, that Attila would keep him at the head of the government as long as he lived, that the government was to be changed to suit the time and occasion, and that he was to be established for life as Dictator. Abraham Lincoln was fool enough to think that it was to be so, and was conspiring to carry out the instructions of Attila when Wilkes Booth ended his grand scheme.

But those who were in the secret would have still persisted, and carried it on with Grant, had they dared to do so.

It finally culminated in an attempt to place him in the presidential chair for a third term. But as that was a failure, the Republican Empire and Dictatorship was given up for the time, although the element still exists, slumbering, only waiting for time and opportunity to revive and again become active and ready for business.

## CHAPTER II.

THERE is much to contend with, in writing the secret history of the rebellion, and the causes leading thereto.

The ignorance of the masses, of the political history of the country, the prejudices and passions of a class of people who are governed by the opinions expressed by others, and by others too, it may be, who know that the opinions expressed are false, but for purposes of their own and their party, with no sense or regard for honor or principle, stop at no means, dishonorable or otherwise, to accomplish their ends. There is also a class of fanatics who flatter themselves that the end justifies the means, and resort to any and all means in their power to accomplish their ends.

Nearly all classes of men are subject, more or less, to influence. Young men are liable to be controlled by sentiment and impulse. Old men may be influenced by prejudice. Men of middle age, matured physically and mentally, should stand free and independent, and think and reason for themselves.

But, unfortunately, that is the age at which self-interest governs the great majority, so that we have arrayed against us the sentiment and impulse of the young, the prejudice of the old, and the self-interest of the rest of mankind, with the exception of those who stand free and independent of all and every influence, and are governed only by their own intelligent, fearless and honest convictions. We should have more regard for the opinion of one such man than for all the rest. Yet I have a due respect for the honest opinion of all intelligent men. But now to the great question. As it has been conceded by many of the intelligent and educated men of the country that there was a motive and a purpose for carrying on and prolonging the war, and so many have expressed themselves to that effect, I would ask is there a man living to-day who can explain that motive and purpose?

It never has been shown, neither has it been called for or questioned. But one of two things must be conceded.

Either there was a motive and purpose in carrying on the war, or it must be acknowledged that the Southern army and Southern people were far superior to the Northern people and soldiers. There were but five millions of white inhabitants in the seceded States, without scarcely a factory of any kind, blockaded, shut in, and cut off from nearly all outside communication. Opposed to them, were over twenty-one millions, with all the appliances for manufacturing all material for war purposes, and the whole world open to draw from.

The soldiers of the Union army will never admit that the soldiers of the Confederacy were their superiors, and at the same time the Confederates will concede that in the field they met a foe worthy of them.\*

It was not from the causes to which it has been ascribed; but history will show, where the secret lay. In the first place Abraham Lincoln was commander-in-chief of the army, the navy, the wealth of the Nation, and of the Nation itself. For a Republican Congress had delegated to him powers greater than that possessed by any crowned head of Europe, and what power they did not give, he usurped and exercised, such as no monarch of the old world, outside of Russia, would have dared to have done. But when a people become submissive, servile and avaricious, and avarice will make a people servile, with the fear of a prison, if they dare to express an opinion reflecting on those in power, and with that power usurped, and exercised in violation of the constitution and the laws on the one hand, and the country flooded with the means to satisfy their cupidity and avarice on the other, even if their own estates are held responsible for the seeming wealth they have accumulated, then usurpers and tyrants do not hesitate to use their power, and such was the case during the four years of the Lincoln dynasty.

It was that cupidity and avarice that controlled the people

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\* By *Soldiers* of the Union Army, is meant patriots who saw nothing but the restoration of the Union. It does not include the hirelings and off-scourings of the earth, who went for the large bounty paid, and as many of them as they could get by jumping the old ones, the plunder which they might obtain, and afterwards secure a life support in the shape of pensions from the government.

of the free States, and gave Abraham Lincoln absolute power. The suspension of specie payments had been accomplished. By the cunning and dishonesty of those in power, instead of taxing the people to carry on the war, paper money was illegally declared legal tender, right in the face of, and in violation of the Constitution which says that nothing but gold and silver shall be legal currency. Then the finances of the country were so adroitly managed and controlled that while Lincoln's mills were grinding out greenbacks, the people were deceiving themselves that through them they were attaining wealth, while Lincoln flattered himself that if Nero could for a time control his army with bare promises of great pay what could he not do with those visible promises secured by the wealth of the nation. It was that scheme that held the Northern and Western States in subjection. Lincoln had already heard the growls and mutterings which portended evil in the West and which he knew would shortly extend over the whole Union unless promptly met and suppressed. Greenbacks accomplished what force could not have done.

## CHAPTER III.

IN explanation of the statements and assertions previously made we should say, in the first place, it was stated that Abraham Lincoln was nominated as the dark horse of the convention of 1860, through the instrumentality and influence of spiritualism. It was well known, and will be remembered by those conversant with the time, that Abraham Lincoln was unknown and unthought of by the politicians as a candidate for the Presidency before that convention met. And after his nomination the inquiry went up all over the country, who is Abraham Lincoln? For, although he had succeeded in securing an election as representative in Congress for one term, he had dropped out of notice entirely, except as a third-rate lawyer in his own immediate section.

Lincoln himself had not been idle, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary. He was ignorant, superstitious and vain, but an ambitious man. A fortune-teller had told him in early life that he was going to be President of the United States, and when spiritualism was introduced he began consulting those of that faith. In the summer of 1860, a clique of political intriguing spiritualists met at the house of a noted medium, or mediums, as the whole family claimed to be mediums, by the name of Laurie, living in Washington, or its immediate vicinity, and held a seance, when the head of the house, Cranston Laurie, purported to be entranced and influenced by the spirit of Robert Rantoul, of Boston, and then and there nominated and declared that Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield, Illinois, was to be the next President of the United States.

At this time it was said that Horace Greeley was interested in and was investigating spiritualism, and had the Fox girls at his house, and was in the right condition to be made use of, to help, to carry out the plans and purposes of those concerned.

Be that as it may, after the spiritualistic performance at the Laurie house, they went to Mr. Greeley and told him what had occurred, he became immediately interested and went to Illinois to see Mr. Lincoln, when they made a compact between themselves.

Mr. Greeley was the man who had Abraham Lincoln nominated as the dark horse of the convention of 1860, and he was the only man at that convention who had that power, for as the New York *Tribune* said, so it must be. Then came the wide-awake campaign, which was entirely revolutionary in its whole proceedings.

The party being formed into a military organization with its proportion of infantry, artillery and cavalry, officered disciplined, and under military instruction and drill, were, from that time on, a secret order of conspirators, but that will be treated of later on.

After Mr. Lincoln's nomination, he took the stump, as it was called, and went through the country, where immense wigwams had been erected for his use, blowing his own horn, and exciting those little blue capes to deeds of valor, (at the polls), and Indiana boasted of getting in nine thousand extra fraudulent votes. Mr. Lincoln was elected by the electoral college, but by about one and a-half millions minority of the popular vote of the people. He didn't mind a little thing like that. The predictions of the fortune-teller and the spiritualistic mediums were fulfilled ; there were greater things yet in store for him, as he had succeeded in obtaining the power, why should he not retain it, for a superstitious, vain man's ambition knows no limit. And then the spirits, through Mr. Laurie, told him that the spirit of Attila, king of the Huns, was his especial controller and director, and that he would sustain and carry him through to regal power and a dictatorship for life.

Abraham Lincoln must, however, sustain and carry out the part assigned him, and this he did to the fullest extent. To accomplish his purpose and obey his instructors, instead of the rebellion being crushed and the Union restored, the war must go on, and the seceded States kept out until it suited his purpose to end the war and restore to them the rights of suffrage, as he knew that with the North and the South united, his chances for re-election would be precarious to say the least.

One would have supposed that the spirits of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Paine, and numerous others of the founders and sustainers of the government would have had some voice or interest in the great struggle, but the event proved that they were ignored entirely, and the whole direction left to that old barbarian the "scourge of God," Attila, king of the Huns, with Abraham Lincoln to work for his own personal and especial benefit.

## CHAPTER IV.

A BRAHAM LINCOLN'S grand triumphal progress to the Capitol of the United States, which should have been in a quiet, inoffensive and dignified manner, was more like that of a harlequin, the entrée of a circus, or some patent medicine vender, than the head of a great and glorious nation on the eve of one of the bloodiest contests in the world's history.

When publicly questioned as to what he thought would be the result of secession, he jocosely replied: "Oh, I guess nobody is hurt!" While the country was agonized to its very heart, he amused the crowd which came out to meet him on his way with jokes and often with low stories. He even made jests that were at once surprising and disgusting to the respectable portion of his own party. To a young man who, in New York city, offered to measure height with him, he replied: "No, I have not time to measure with you, but if you will bring on your sister I will kiss her." The whole style of the man was that of a low jester, rather than that of a statesman and a patriot.

His conduct, during the whole of his journey from Springfield to Washington, had been most ostentatious, vulgar and offensive, but it was becoming to the man, until some one at Philadelphia started the ludicrous report that when he passed through Baltimore the train was to be wrecked and he assassinated. Instead of boldly meeting the danger, if any existed, he skipped around in disguise, and left his family to follow on the doomed train.

But no conspirators appeared; there was no demonstration of danger, and even had there been, had he been a free man equal to the emergency, with no dark spot upon his soul, he would have put his trust in God and the right, defied all the powers of hell had they risen up against him, and gone to the Capitol like a Cæsar, or like a Cæsar met his fate.

Abraham Lincoln was not so constructed, as his whole future career demonstrated, which was one of pusillanimity and cowardice for when there were two powerful armies

between him and the enemy he required a body guard of forty thousand soldiers for his own especial protection, which he considered of more consequence and importance than the rescue of McClellan's army, or the taking of Richmond.\* In relating my own personal interest and connection with the subject, the reader will excuse what may appear to be an egotistic opinion of my own conclusions, as expressed by myself at the time, and in the presence of many who are still living, and who, no doubt, will remember the incident when reminded of the circumstances. Laying no claim to any superior judgment, knowledge or discernment to any other person who would give the subject the same study and attention. In the summer of 1863, becoming acquainted with the family before spoken of, the Lauries, through a gentleman of great scientific attainments, who was investigating every subject of interest, among which was the new one of spiritualism, and being a gentleman of wealth and leisure, he spared no pains to gratify and satisfy his inquiring mind.

Having had glowing accounts of the wonderful performances of the Laurie family, he invited Mr. and Mrs. Laurie to make him a visit, which they did, and while there I met and invited them to New Haven, where they spent a few days at my house.

On their return to Washington they invited the gentleman to whom allusion has been made and myself to accompany them to their homes, which invitation was accepted, and where I remained for three weeks, with my eyes and ears open, and with the opportunity of learning some of the secret working of the time, so that on my return to New Haven was prepared to dispute Mr. Lincoln's right to the title of "Honest Abe." Shortly after my arrival, being in a store where a number of business men were accustomed to meet after closing their several places of business, to talk over the news of the day, and where "Honest Abe" came to be a common expression, after an extra effort to impress upon those present, by one of "Honest Abe's" admirers, how deserving of the title Mr. Lincoln was, I said "Abraham Lincoln is not the man that you think he is." He is not "Honest Abe," and before he gets through, justice will overtake him. The de-

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\* General McDowell with his forces when McClellan made his advance on Richmond.

mand was immediately made why I should make that statement. My answer was that in all the past history of the world, there never was a man, the ruler of a nation, who made use of the nation's blood and treasure to carry out his own selfish and ambitious purposes that justice did not overtake sooner or later, and that it would fall upon Abraham Lincoln. I also told them that Richmond would not be taken, nor the war ended, until after or so near the Presidential election, that the seceded States could not be restored to the rights of suffrage, but when that time came it would be done. The result proved that I was correct.

In the meantime the question was often asked in the way of ridicule, by one of the parties, "How about Lincoln, he seems to be getting along?" My answer was, "Wait and see." Nearly two years had passed, Richmond had been taken, Lincoln had been there, and the whole country was greatly elated, as it might well be, at the close of the murderous struggle, and my ridiculing friend was too elated to contain himself, and was bubbling over with joy. It was on "Good Friday," the 14th day of April, 1865. The day that the President of the United States had appointed as a day for the whole nation to observe as a day of fasting and prayer. A day which, previous to that time, had been appointed by the Governors of the several States, and I believe never before by the President, a day, which it would be reasonable to suppose he would be the first to observe. It was on the evening of that day that my ridiculing friend, with an extra amount of ebullition and excitement, asked, "How about Lincoln? He seems to be doing well. There don't seem to be any thing troubling him very much." I again replied, "Just as sure as the sun rises and sets to-morrow justice will overtake that man." And before the words had been uttered the deed had been done. Although it was on a day which he had appointed as a day of fasting and prayer, it was not at a prayer meeting that retribution came upon him.\*

I was denounced as one of the conspirators. It was said that I must have known of it, and spies were stationed to watch my doors, and all persons who came to or went from my house were followed to their homes, and one lady was followed four miles out of the city. Four howling fanatics,

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\* It was in Ford's Theatre where, after recommending and advising the rest of the nation to fast and pray, he goes for recreation and amusement.

like Wehr wolves, seeking blood, with a United States marshal at their head, went after her to inquire what I had said; and further, if I had said I was glad Lincoln was killed. As soon as they had left, her father drove in to warn me of the danger to which I was exposed. After thanking him for his kind interest and trouble, I sent word to the marshal that if he would come to me, I would express myself just as freely to him as to any other one, and that in the first place no man, whatever his opinion might be, unless thoughtlessly or under excitement would say that he was glad the President was killed, and in the next place, if such a remark was made it was unworthy of notice. The marshal said, afterwards, that my arrest was demanded upon five different occasions.

I had a personal interview with President Lincoln while I was in Washington, and just before the great draft riots. I happened to know that they were preparing to resist that illegal and unconstitutional method of obtaining recruits, and that thousands swore that they would die in the streets of New York sooner than be dragged to the front to be slaughtered in the way that men had been during the past two years. And those who were then living will well remember the fearful results of the attempt to enforce it.

I told Mr. Lincoln what they were preparing to do, and that if he attempted to enforce it there would be the bloodiest time that New York ever witnessed, and that there was a strong feeling throughout the country in opposition to it. "What of that," he said, "it is easy to avoid it."

"But you don't want it avoided, you want soldiers, and if you will come out with an appeal directly to the people, and call for a force sufficient to take Richmond, and end the war, they will come. Put a million of men in the field and end it, and I will be one of them,"

"They would not do it," he said, "for when I called upon Pennsylvania for 50,000 volunteers to repel the invasion, and they came up, because I wanted them to take the oath to serve in the United States army six months, they wouldn't do it."

"Of course they would not. They were no such fools. You cannot get 50,000 nor 300,000 men to volunteer. They have done it for over two years, and have been formed into armies and marched up into batteries and fortifications to be cut down, and they are tired of that, and I am just

coward enough not to want to go myself. But so far as my knowledge extends, both in Connecticut and New York, and I have heard a good deal upon the subject, I know it to be the sentiment of the people that if they can be called upon in sufficient numbers to break down the rebellion, they will come. In the mean time Secretary Chase and Senator Sumner had come in and taken seats on the opposite side of the room. He then said the people have nothing to say about it, and if they attempt to devise any such means or even talk of it, they are meddlers, and have no right to do it. My reply was: "Louis of France and Charles of England thought the same, but the people thought differently; they thought they had rights, and possibly our people may think so, too."

"I suppose this to be a people's government, and the will of the people to be the law of the land, or it was so intended by the framers of our government." Then he said "he could not arm a million of men, or handle them." I said, "Mr. President, if you cannot arm them, arm what you can, and allow others to arm themselves and end this terrible war." I then bade him good day, and left.

At that time there were seven hundred and fifty thousand stands of arms in the arsenals, and manufactories running day and night making more.

The next year his own plans and purposes had matured, and he was ready to bring the war to a close, he then did precisely that same thing, and called for eight hundred thousand fresh troops, put Grant in command, with over a million of men in the army, and crushed the rebellion just as he might have done at least two years before.

## CHAPTER V.

I SHOULD state that it is not spiritualism that I am discussing or meddling with, or any other religious belief that does not meddle or interfere with the rights and privileges of others. As to my own opinion in regard to the subject, I have little to say, only that I am satisfied that there is some mighty force in nature which science has never explained, and an intelligence that controls that force, and that I have witnessed stranger things "twixt heaven and earth than we had dreamed of in our philosophy, Horatio."

But there I stop, as I have never discovered any benefit to be derived from it. Let the theory be true or false, I have no objection to others enjoying it.

As an individual, with reasoning powers of my own, if all the spirits of the universe were to appear, with Michael at their head, giving me orders I would not obey, unless my own reasoning powers warranted me in so doing.

There is another "ism" of which I think still less, and that is Puritanism.

I claim that New England Puritanism, with its bigotry, assumption, arrogance, and dictation, has been the cause of nearly all the trouble we have had in this country.

Had the "May Flower" with her consorts sunk in mid-ocean, or as a learned divine once remarked, "That instead of the Pilgrims landing on Plymouth Rock, had Plymouth Rock landed on the Pilgrims, it would have been better for the country."

It would certainly have saved the country much trouble, turmoil, strife and blood. While upon the subject, I will give an account, written by Col. S. B. Kase, and published in the *New York Sun*, showing and corroborating my statements concerning Lincoln's connection with the Laurie family.

## WAS MR. LINCOLN A SPIRITUALIST?

*How he came to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. A strange story told by Col. Kase, one of the witnesses for the Diss Debar. The president sat on a piano and it jumped up and threw him off.*

"Prominent among the many distinguished-looking people who have been present for the past few days at the trial of the 'Princess' and the 'Gen.' Diss Debar is a tall, stoutly built old gentleman of truly striking appearance. His massive frame, thick, curly white hair, and strong face, surmounted by an intellectual, high forehead, would attract attention anywhere. He will appear as a witness for the defence of the spirit-juggling Princess. His name is Col. S. B. Kase, and he hails from Philadelphia, where for many years he has been well-known by those interested in railroad affairs. Although a member of the Presbyterian Church, Col. Kase is a believer in the so-called spiritual manifestations of modern mediums. How he first came to embrace this belief he told an *Evening Sun* reporter yesterday and it was an interesting recital.

"In the early part of 1862," said Col. Kase, "I went from Philadelphia to Washington to further the progress of a railroad bill in which I was interested. I had formerly lived in Washington, and had had an office on Pennsylvania Avenue near the Capitol. The morning after my arrival in Washington I had occasion to pass by my old office, and I naturally looked with interest at the building wherein I had been situated twelve years before. I noticed the name J. B. Conklin on a sign by the door. I had heard of Mr. Conklin as a well known New York medium, but had never met him.

"As I stood looking at the sign, a voice behind me said: 'Go in and see Mr. Conklin. He has something for you.' I turned to see who had spoken to me, and was dumfounded when I observed that there was no one within a hundred yards of where I stood. For a moment I hesitated, but my curiosity finally compelled me to obey the command.

"I went into the building, and went straight to Mr. Conklin's office. He was sitting in his shirt sleeves, near the window, writing. I approached him and saw him direct an

envelope hastily and seal it. Without a word of greeting he handed me the envelope and said: 'Col. Kase, you are to give this to the President at once.'

"I looked at the envelope and saw that it was addressed to President Abraham Lincoln.

"'Cannot you send this by mail?' I inquired, much surprised at Mr. Conklin's manner.

"'No,' said he abruptly. 'You must deliver it to him.'

"I looked more closely at the man and saw that he was apparently in a trance, and at that moment the same voice that had spoken to me in the street said: 'Take the letter to the President and see what comes of it.'

"Thoroughly interested now, I told Mr. Conklin I would comply with his request. I was very busy all day, but that evening I went to the White House and sent in my name to Mr. Lincoln. I had never met him, and I learned afterward that when my name was announced he thought it was Salmon P. Chase, the War Secretary of the Treasury. At all events he received me at once, and seemed surprised to see a stranger.

"'You are ——' he began, with a look of inquiry.

"'S. B. Kase of Pennsylvania,' I said, 'and I have a letter for you.'

"He took the letter, and after requesting me to be seated, tore open the envelope. I noticed as he hastily read the missive that a look of great surprise, not unmixed with some strong emotion, swept over his expressive face.

"'What does all this mean?' he demanded sharply, looking at me. 'It is very strange. I cannot understand it. What does it mean?'

"'I am sure I don't know, Mr. President,' I said.

"'But you must know, sir; you delivered this letter.'

"'But I don't know what it contains.'

"'Then I will read it,' said the President. 'Listen.'

"Mr. Lincoln then read this letter. I remember the words of it perfectly:

*President Lincoln.*

SIR: I have been sent to you by the spirit world to speak with you upon matters of vital importance to the nation. I cannot return to New York until I have seen you.

Yours very respectfully,

J. B. CONKLIN.





How Lincoln came to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. See page 28.

"For several minutes after reading the letter, Mr. Lincoln was silent and seemingly plunged in deep thought. Then he asked me what I knew of 'this spiritualism.' I knew very little about it then, but I knew enough to interest the President very greatly in a half hour's conversation. When I arose to go he said: 'Send Mr. Conklin to me on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.'

"For several weeks after this I was very busy with my railroad affairs. One afternoon I was in the gallery of the House of Representatives watching the proceedings on the floor below, when a lady whom I had never seen before came up to me and giving me her card said: 'I would be pleased to have you call at my house some evening.'

"A Judge of one of the Courts, whom I knew, stood beside me, and I asked him who the lady was.

"'You can see by the card that her name is Mrs. Laurie,' he said. 'She lives in Alexandria, and has a daughter, Mrs. Miller, who plays wonderfully upon the piano.'

"'But I don't know her. Why should she invite me to her house?'

"'Perhaps she was *impelled* to do so,' said the Judge, with a peculiar emphasis upon the word.

"This set me to thinking of spiritualism again, and I determined to call upon Mrs. Laurie. Two or three evenings after that I went to her house in Alexandria. When I entered the parlor I found the President and Mrs. Lincoln there, together with a number of people whom I did not know. For a while the conversation was general and nothing unusual happened.

"Suddenly a young girl, about 15 years old, walked the length of the drawing-room to where President Lincoln sat. Stopping in front of him, the child—for she was nothing more—looked into his eyes with a peculiar rapt expression on her face.

"'President Lincoln,' she said, in a clear, but not loud voice, 'the liberty of our Nation, conceived in the womb of oppression, and born in the throes of the Revolution, can never be crowned with the wreath of immortality until each and every human being in these United States is free! Slavery in any form must not exist. So says that spiritual Congress, which in this dread time of menace and danger to the Union watches over and directs the affairs of the Nation

with even greater care and steadfastness of purpose than do the representatives chosen by the people. I have been chosen as their medium of communication with you. Before you can hope to bring about the great and lasting glory of this republic, you must make every man within its boundaries free. You must emancipate all the slaves by your pen, and your armies must indorse your action with the sword.'

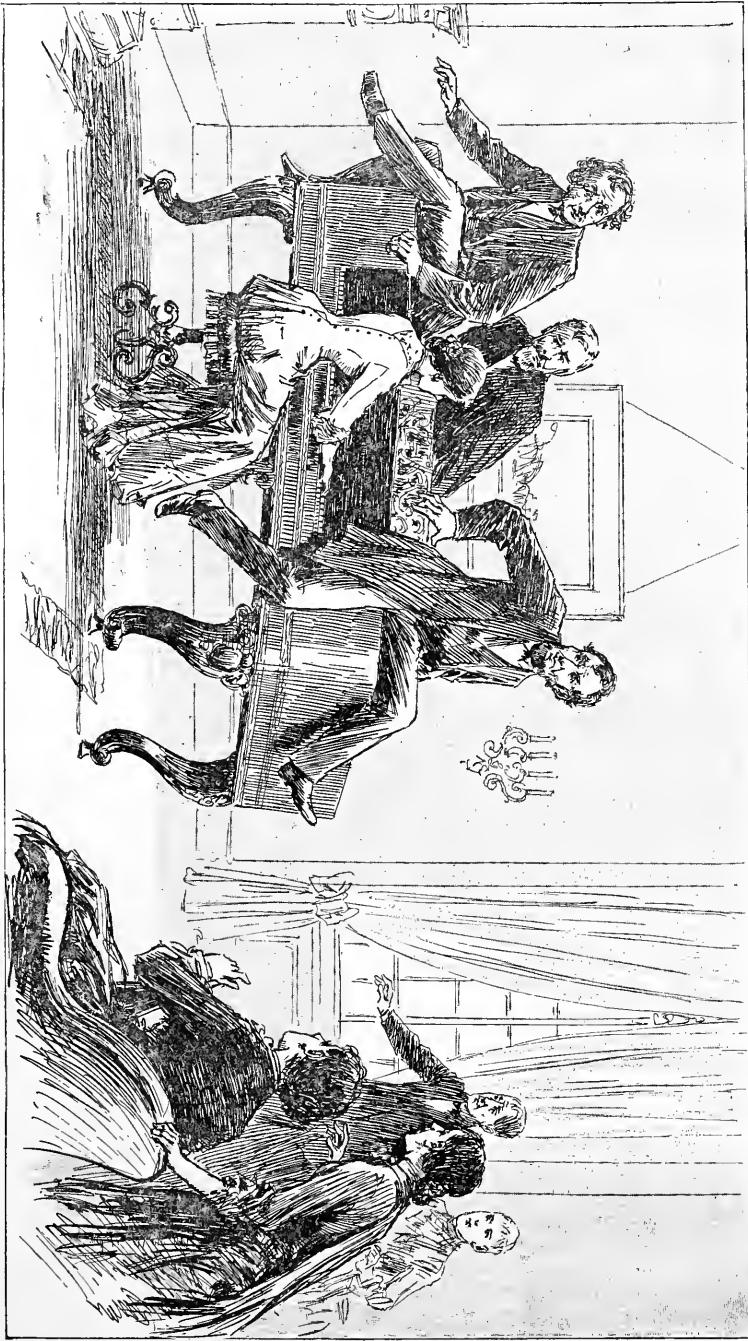
"She talked to the President in this strain for an hour and a-half, never hesitating or faltering for a word, and clothing her thoughts in language which, in her normal condition, she could not have understood. When she recovered from her trance she knew nothing of what she had done or said. This child was Nettie Maynard, afterward recognized as one of the greatest mediums in the world. The President seemed greatly impressed with what the girl had said.

"A short time before he had said to those urging the emancipation idea: 'I hope it will not be irreverent for me to say that, if it is probable that God would reveal his will to others on a point so connected with my duty, it might be supposed He would reveal it directly to me, for, unless I am more deceived in myself than I often am, it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence in this matter, and if I can learn what it is I will do it.'

On Sept. 22, 1862, he signed the proclamation making the slaves freemen.

"Before I left Mrs. Laurie's that night, I had another experience worth noting. Mrs. Miller, her daughter, began to play on the piano, and as she did so the piano jumped up and down on the floor, keeping time to the music. I asked if I might sit upon the instrument so that I could testify by my sense of feeling that it really moved. She gladly consented, and President Lincoln, Judge Wattles, who hailed from the West, and I sat on the piano. Mrs. Miller played again and the piano jumped so violently and shook us up so roughly that we were thankful to get off it."

As Col. Kase concluded his story, he looked at the reporter steadily, and, raising his right hand, said, with great solemnity: "As there is a God in heaven, all that I have told you is true."



The piano jumped so violently and shook us up so roughly that we were thankful to get off it. See page 24.



## C H A P T E R V I.

COL. KASE was correct. Although never having the pleasure of meeting him, I will certify to all he has said, except that I think that the little girl's address to President Lincoln was rather lengthy. It would have been quite an effort for a child to have committed so much to memory, and half of it would have done just as well. But Nettie was a bright little girl, and capable of quite an effort, and she also had good instructors. And I think that he was a little inclined to credulity. I don't like to say it, but I have pretty good evidence that J. B. Conklin was a trickster, and a cheat.

But did it never occur to him that Conklin might have had some one in collusion with him. Or that he might have been a ventriloquist, and himself on the lookout for gudgeons. And how very innocent and interested Mr. Lincoln was on the subject of Spiritualism.

How entertained he must have been by a novice, as Col. Kase was, at that time, after a constant association with the Lauries for more than a year, and where he says that he found him immediately after his call upon him as note bearer. But I know, personally, all of those whom he has mentioned in his communication in the *Sun*, except Conklin. Commencing with Mr. Laurie, his father was a prominent clergyman in Washington, and a man of influence. His son was adopted by the State of Tennessee, and by that means received an appointment as midshipman in the navy, where he advanced, I think, to a lieutenancy. But when he married he resigned, and procured a position in the Post Office department, which he retained, I suppose, as long as he lived. I think he became intemperate and very poor. Mrs. Laurie claimed to be a connection of President Jackson, and must have been quite a favorite with the old man, and was informed in all the arts of political intrigue and wire-pulling of her time.

She also had her sources of information, and knew of much that was going on, especially during the war, and was probably Mrs. Lincoln's most intimate confidant, and when any

man of note, or in any way conspicuous came to Washington, she had means of information concerning them, and when she handed him her card she knew very well whom she was addressing.

Although I know nothing about it, I think that if his stay in Washington was prolonged for any length of time that he must have seen more of the Laurie manifestations.

Judge Wattles was the most important of all the characters connected with the Lauries, barring the President, a man of powerful intellect, and of great general and secret information, was a Nutmeg, born in Connecticut, but spent most of his life in the West. At the time he figured most conspicuously, although in the back ground, his home was in Mound City, Kansas, where his family resided, and where he lived during most of the John Brown excitement.

Although he kept himself aloof from publicity, he was a power behind the throne, and a prime mover, instigator and advisor in those abolition schemes, and one of John Brown's most efficient private aids, and I think, with pretty good cause, that he was the spiritual Congress that chose little Nettie Maynard as a means of communication with President Lincoln, of which Col. Kase gives such a glowing account. He was one of those of whom I have before spoken, who thought the end justified the means. He spent most of the summer of 1863 and 1864 at my house in New Haven, and with all his radical ideas, was a man to be admired.

As to little Nettie Maynard, she was a bright child of, I should think, not more than twelve years of age, and a ward of Mr. Laurie's. As to her wonderful mediumship I saw or heard nothing. But then it was warm weather and Judge Wattles, her spiritual congress, was not present. Mrs. Miller, the daughter of Mrs. Laurie, figured principally upon the jumping piano, which did as Col. Kase has described, performed all that he claimed for it, and more, for when they placed an egg on the carpet with lamp black on the shell, the pianoforte would come down and touch the black without breaking the shell, which I, with several others, witnessed.

I suppose that there were hundreds of others who witnessed the same performance.\*

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\* She afterwards figured rather unfortunately as the widow of Theophilous Young, over which there was quite a notorious litigation, as to the administration of his estate in Boston, and where he himself was produced in court as a witness.

While I was there, there was a small private seance held at which Mr. Laurie became entranced, purporting to be influenced by the same spirit that nominated Abraham Lincoln for President, Robert Rantool. Alluding to that time, he said, "Again I stand upon the mount of prophecy and ere ninety days are past the war will be over and all will be at peace." He went on with quite a harangue for some time, which, when he had finished, some one asked if Lincoln would be re-elected, and he said no. So the war went on for nearly two years after that time, and Lincoln was re-elected.

At that time they had secretly turned against Mr. Lincoln; but for the influence and favor received kept in with him openly. But that was only a little in advance of a great portion of the free and thinking republicans who became, if possible, more bitter in feeling towards the President than the democrats, and who went to work to try to depose him. They sent an agent to General Rosecrans with an offer of the nomination, which he declined. When they did call a convention at Cleveland and nominated General Fremont, and the best men of his own party did not hesitate to express themselves at that time through the papers, and by speeches, denouncing him and his doings in terms the most severe. For instance, the speech at St. Louis of Senator Blow of Wisconsin, who was at that time a republican member of Congress, and was afterwards re-elected, which was as follows:

"We studied Mr. Lincoln as our hope for freedom and unity. He was not great, we doubted. He was not firm, we trembled. He became selfish and insincere, and we lost all confidence and ceased to respect him. We are not alone in this feeling, the journals of Congress show a gradual decline of confidence on the part of members, in the chief magistrate. And history records that in these days of our greatest disaster, the President of the United States was engaged with his myriads of office holders in perpetuating his government, for invested by circumstances with and exercising a power greater than that possessed by Kings and Emperors, ambition reigned supreme in that bosom which should have cherished only the loftiest patriotism.

"The contemplation of the past eight months is sickening, absolutely nauseating. This is strong language, but let those who have been engaged in this unholy crusade for power while their country was in darkness, deny it, if they dare,

and their efforts be met with the indignation of the honest men of all parties, and refuted by history written in blood-shed and disaster, and how is it to-day? the man still rules and errs. No dignity, no high resolves, no action bearing the impress of intellectual power and greatness. No cabinet to counsel with, hardly anything left, save the imbecility that threatens. The cunning which some time triumphs, and the vanity that demands without the power to enforce."

And such was the feeling and sentiment that prevailed throughout the country, with the better and more honest portion of the republican party in opposition to Abraham Lincoln, and they would gladly have exchanged him for a better horse. So that at that time he was not enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen.

But they had not given him credit for the low cunning and scheming to which he was entitled, and of which he was capable. He knew his position, and his power. He knew "that as the bell tinkleth, so the fool thinketh." And as the leaders say, so the herd goes even though it be down a steep declivity, with great violence into the sea.

But Lincoln had other resources. He wielded a power and operated a machinery, such as no ruler of modern times had known. He held the army with its immense power. He held many thousands of civil appointments, with all their vast influence. He held the treasury with its billions of wealth. He held a secret order of armed conspirators, ready to do his bidding, and who were sworn to uphold and sustain him at all hazards. He gagged the press, and he manipulated the votes of the army to suit his purpose, and, even after all that, the election was to be but a farce. If by any possible chance he did not carry the vote, they were to hold the power by force, and after he was re-established, the government was to be changed to suit the occasion, and he was to be exalted to regal power, and a dictatorship for life. And at the inaugural ball of March, 1865, a throne with a crown built up with flowers, was erected by those who were in the secret as symbolical of what Abraham Lincoln was to get.

## C H A P T E R VII.

[N the summer of 1864, I was walking with one of Lincoln's most ardent admirers, a member of one of the secret orders supporting him, when he commenced to eulogize Lincoln very extravagantly. He said, "Abraham Lincoln, is the greatest man the world has ever produced. He is far superior to Washington or Jefferson, and a man whom God selected for this purpose, and we are going to keep him at the head of the government as long as he lives, for we have saved the Union, and it belongs to us, and we are going to run it."\*

"How will you do it?" I asked. "We are going to re-elect him, and during the following four years we will change the form of government to suit ourselves, and then we will establish him for life." I then told him I believed God did select him for the purpose. That the Almighty often made use of vile agents to accomplish his purpose. He saw the condition the country was in, that it was growing from bad to worse, and that it must culminate. To bring it about he needed certain agents. When I want my cesspools cleaned I have to get men who are suited to that kind of work, I can't get gentlemen to do it. And he needed a man who would be a usurper, a tyrant, a despot; a man who would trample upon the constitution and the people. He could never have used a Washington or a Jefferson for that purpose; he had to find a man who was adapted to it, and he looked over the country for him, and in Springfield, Illinois, he found just the man he wanted. That man spoke the sentiments and intentions of most of the leaders of the Lincoln faction. The fourth and last year of the term of the Lincoln administration had arrived, and he had thus far succeeded to the fullest, in his expectations and desires; the people of the Union had been deceived, through the false movements of the army of the

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\* I propose to show before I get through, about how much they had to do with saving the Union. Lest the reader should get impatient, I will say just here that there was one slave and democratic state which furnished more soldiers for the Union Army than eight free and abolition states did.

Potomac, and the flood of greenbacks, with which the country had been deluged had kept them from revolt, and now the time had come to bring the farce to an end, as the seceded States could now be kept out until after the election was over and the power secured according to their intention. Grant was called to Washington in March of that year, and appointed to the command of the whole of the Union forces, and given a commission as Lieutenant-General; after having received this the President called him aside, and made one of his characteristic speeches for which he was noted upon momentous occasions like this. I will give it, as given by Gen. Grant, and as published in the *Reminiscences of Lincoln*, and selected by the *North American Review*, and sent out in an advertisement as one of Lincoln's best efforts to show how interesting the work was which they offered gratis to each subscriber to that magazine.

SAMPLE ANECDOTE BY ULYSSES S. GRANT.

"Just after receiving my commission as Lieutenant-General, the President called me aside to speak to me privately.

"After a brief reference to the military situation, he said, he thought he could illustrate what he wanted to say by a story, which he related as follows:

"At one time there was a great war among the animals, and one side had great difficulty in getting a commander who had sufficient confidence in himself. Finally, they found a monkey by the name of Jocko, who said he thought he could command their army if his tail could be made a little longer, so they got more tail and spliced it on to his caudal appendage. He looked at it admiringly, and then thought he ought to have a little more still, this was added, and again he called for more. The splicing process was repeated many times until they had coiled Jocko's tail around the room, filling all the space; still he called for more tail, and there being no other place to coil it, they began wrapping it around his shoulders. He continued his call for more and they kept on winding the additional tail about him until its weight broke him down."

I saw the point, and rising from my chair replied, "Mr. President, I will not call for more assistance unless I find it impossible to do with what I already have."

Thus ended the interview of the greatest man the world has ever produced, the greatest character since Jesus Christ,

and the great, the immortal Grant, the General with whom the great Generals of the past, Xenophon, Marlborough, Napoleon, Wellington, or any of the rest, are not to be compared, that is in the estimation of his admirers. And this is the description of General McClellan and his army of only eighty-five thousand soldiers, Jocko and his tail, who were sent by Lincoln to capture Richmond, and who went up to its batteries and fortifications through rivers of blood. How grand, how noble, how magnanimous the description, by the good and the great Lincoln, the man who is enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen! But let us see about the truth and justice of it. At the time of McClellan's advance on Richmond the confederates were more powerful than at any other time during the four years of the war. They had the inside of the course and could concentrate their forces at any given point in a few hours' time, and McClellan knew well with what he had to contend, and he had one of the best qualifications of a good commander, a proper consideration for human life, and he had none to spare, for he had been most terribly and treacherously deceived in receiving aid and support. For, instead of receiving the reinforcements which had been promised him, and which he had every right and reason to expect, that of Burnside with his forces at Newberne, and McDowell with forty thousand, all of which he could have had as well as not. For had Lincoln wanted a force for his own defence under the pretence of defending Washington, he could have raised a hundred thousand men in three days, from Pennsylvania and New York alone.

Abraham Lincoln, however, did not intend that McClellan should take Richmond, and instead of sending him the promised assistance, after Burnside had embarked his troops on board of transports, with the expectation of going to McClellan, he was ordered farther down the coast, and to land again, while McDowell was ordered by the Commander-in-chief, Abraham Lincoln, to remain in Washington for his protection, and, after all that ten thousand of his own army were taken from him and sent with Blenker to General Fremont. Thus we see the falsity of the accusation, and that instead of Jocko receiving an extension to his tail, he was curtailed, and shorn of a part of what he had before. Notwithstanding all that, he succeeded in getting to where, had he been reinforced by McDowell, he would, without a doubt, have taken

Richmond. Instead of sending the additional tail, Lincoln ordered McClellan to retreat, but not until the order was repeated did he obey. Then occurred one of the most brilliant achievements of the war. His changing front, and his carrying his army safely back, as he did, is conceded by all military men, to have been a most masterly piece of generalship.

After the experience of that campaign, and after all had been accomplished that possibly could have been, with the means at McClellan's command, it would not do to retain him in that position, for he could not have been handled again at Lincoln's caprice. Consequently he must be traded off for a green horse. And Burnside, a general who perhaps was capable of commanding a division, was placed in command of the army of the Potomac. The army was then re-organized and made ready for an advance; for those movements must be made in order to deceive the people, and keep them in subjection, and at the same time give them an opportunity to gather in greenbacks.

At the last interview, and at the last moment, Burnside reminded Lincoln and Meigs, of the necessity of the pontoons being on time, and then commenced his advance on Fredericksburg, where he, with his entire army, and its consequent immense train, arrived according to appointment. But where were the pontoons? They were stuck in the mud, so we were told. But they were stuck just where Lincoln wanted them stuck, and there they remained stuck, until the Confederates had fortified the heights of Fredericksburg, and were fully prepared to give Burnside, and his army a warm reception, which they did, with an immense slaughter, and a demoralization of the army.

Now, had Lincoln wished it, the pontoons would have been there, but he did not wish or intend to have them there. Had it been in New England the farmers would have turned out and got the pontoons there if they had been allowed a chance.

The result would have been the same eventually, for Burnside and his army could not have taken Richmond, or defeated Lee's army, even if they had crossed the Rappahannock on time. But Lincoln's purpose was accomplished, and the people of the North could be carried along for another term of months, which they were, and which time we will pass over for the present until the Spring of 1864.

## C H A P T E R V I I I.

WE will now commence the campaign of 1864 with General U. S. Grant in command of the Union forces, under appointment by President Lincoln as Lieutenant-General, and confirmed by the Senate on March 5th, 1864, and as we left them in a previous chapter, receiving his instructions from his Commander-in-chief, Abraham Lincoln, through a monkey's narrative, which had been spliced, re-spliced, coiled and piled, until there was no more room to continue the splicing process; and as we are writing this in the cause of truth, justice and vindication, we will look at the causes which placed him in that position.

It is well understood that it was Grant's success in capturing Forts Henry and Donelson, and his "unconditional surrender, which if not complied with, I shall immediately move on your works," reply to the Commander of Fort Donelson, that placed him at the head of the army, gave the title of Lieutenant-General, and finally made him President of the United States. And although it has been repeatedly denied, and a correct statement of the affair published, I suppose that the greater portion of the people of the country still believe that that imposition, and falsehood was really as represented, and that General Grant was really entitled to the credit and honor which, if he did not claim, he tacitly assented to and assumed, as he was never known to deny or refuse anything that would be of value to him, or accrue to his benefit. It was to General Fremont, and his plans, and his construction of the iron clads, that we are indebted for the capture of Fort Henry, and to Admiral Foote that the surrender was made, and it was, without doubt, the capture of Fort Henry that caused the surrender of Fort Donelson. But it was not to General Grant that the surrender was made, nor was it General Grant who returned the unconditional surrender reply, for he was not there, and knew nothing of it, until it was over. I can do no better than to give the account, as given by Don Piatt, in memoirs of

John C. Fremont, and published in *Belford's Magazine* for October, 1890. He says: "The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson, followed by the fall of Nashville, set the people of the North wild with excitement, for they were victories in our hour of defeat. When it appeared as if the Southern boasts of superiority in arms, were being demonstrated."

We were not given the facts clearly enough to adjust the fame due to the real author of the success; this belonged exclusively to Fremont. He conceived the project, and not only made the purpose practical, but planned the campaign that ended so brilliantly. His much despised, abused, and never-paid-for gunboats, under Commodore Foote, shelled the confederates into a surrender of Fort Henry because the works were on such low ground, that the ironclads had them at their mercy. Grant and his troops had little part in the performance, but that of accepting the surrender with cool audacity as his act.

While the affair of Fort Henry is painfully obscured, that of Donelson is grotesquely distorted. Foote's gunboats were not so effective as at the first named place because of the Fort's elevation. The fire opened from the river, and the assaults made by the army were a disastrous failure. Grant had moved on Donelson in light marching order, while the fleet sailed around, in expectation of taking the place by surprise. The Confederates were not at all surprised, and could have remained there probably for two years longer, had General Floyd, then in command, so determined. General Grant was gravely embarrassed. He had hurried forward his forces without the necessary equipage for winter, and the weather suddenly turned intensely cold. To fight without food was bad enough, but to sleep without tents, with the mercury near zero, was out of the question, so General Grant issued an order to Commodore Foote to make another demonstration under which he could retreat.

The night preceding the day on which it was purposed to again bombard the Fort from the iron clads, General Grant having given orders to his three Generals, Smith, McClernand, and Wallace, to make no move until directed by himself, disappeared from his headquarters. General Floyd was not acquainted with General Grant's purposed retreat, and knowing that the line of Confederate defense was broken by the fall of Fort Henry so that he could expect a force of the

enemy in his rear, at any time, determined to make a sortie in hopes of cutting his way out. It is also claimed that this effort was also stimulated by the fear that if captured, he would be incontinently executed as a traitor, for his conduct in President Buchanan's Cabinet.

But as the military view of the situation is enough to account for his conduct, it is not necessary to go further for so base a one. At daylight, therefore, he marched out, leaving Buckner, and a light force to hold the Fort and cover his rear, the brunt of the attack fell upon the forces under McCleernand. As these were inferior in numbers, McCleernand, although fighting fiercely, was forced to fall back. Now had Generals Smith and Wallace swung in upon Floyd's thin line under Buckner at any time before noon, the entire force under Floyd, as well as the Fort would have been captured. But these officers were obeying positive orders; they hurried aids and orderlies, as did McCleernand, to Grant's headquarters, only to get in reply that the General was not there, nor did any one know where he was.

At last General Smith violated orders, and moved into the fight. He swept aside the thin line, and soon found himself possessed of the key to the situation. To a flag of truce from General Buckner, asking upon what terms he might surrender, General Smith responded, "Unconditional-Surrender; if not complied with, I will immediately move on your works."

These memorable words, which subsequently elected "Unconditional-Surrender" Grant President, were approved of by the man who adopted them as his own and "who would have disappeared from history," as General Sherman truthfully said, "had their gallant and able author lived to claim them and his proper place in the armies of our country."

And where was General Grant all this time? On a gun boat in earnest consultation with Commodore Foote and a whiskey bottle.

From near midnight until next day about 5 P. M. he sat in the cabin of an iron-clad that echoed and shook to the roar of the conflict then going on. What a melancholy farce it all is when we come to know and analyze the events that made heroes out of the veriest imbeciles a country was ever cursed with, called from the profoundest obscurity, when the war broke upon us these full-stomached generals blundered along

the stage, shaming us before the world with their frightful disaster, and filling the households of the land with mourning for their crippled and dead.

If from our National Cemeteries and private graves could be gathered the bones of the brave men needlessly slaughtered, a monument could be built of them tall enough to out-top that to Robert E. Lee at Richmond.

## CHAPTER IX.

BEFORE proceeding with the great Ulysses, I must again revert to the little monkey with the immense and unwieldy tail. President Lincoln says that "he looked at it admiringly," and well he might, for every link in that tail was a human life, a living man and a soldier, entrusted to his care, direction and preservation, so far as consistent with his position and requirements as a commander about to enter upon the terrible struggle before him, and well he performed his part.

I have often heard it remarked, and asserted, that General McClellan was a traitor, that he favored the Confederates, that he carried on a clandestine correspondence and communicated with them continually, and that, too, by men of education and seeming intelligence. I once heard a person who claimed to have been a soldier in the army of the Potomac say, that he saw General McClellan cross over in the night and enter the confederate camp, where he remained for some time, and returned. That man was a liar, for if General McClellan did that, as represented by that soldier, he made himself liable to arrest and trial for treason, and any one belonging to the army, knowing it, and not reporting it to the proper officer, was himself equally guilty of aiding and abetting treason. Looking over General McClellan's whole private, public, and official career, no act but that of a true patriot, a competent officer, and a humane man can be found. Why was General McClellan denounced and branded a traitor? I can tell you. It was because he had not the power nor the disposition to change from his own manly nature to that of a wehr wolf\* and seek blood and plunder wherever he could

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\* Wehr wolf—man-wolf. A person fabulously regarded as becoming a wolf at pleasure, and when so changed was one of the most bloodthirsty monsters which can be imagined.

The story of the wehr-wolf was well demonstrated in the republican party during the war, and as long after as they dared to manifest their disposition, or until self-interest compelled them to conceal their fangs.

obtain it, provided it was south of certain limits, and because he refused to make war upon the helpless inhabitants of the rebellious states and deprive them of the means of subsistence and only upon men armed and in revolt against the government.

General McClellan has given the cause himself, under his own hand and signature, so much more directly and concisely than I am qualified to do, I will transfer it from his report of the campaign in Western Virginia, and if the reader can find any thing disloyal or traitorous in his long siege or afterwards in his acts, it is more than I have been able to do.

## C H A P T E R X.

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“PROCLAMATION!

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“*Headquarters Department of the Ohio,*  
*May 20th, 1861.*

“*To the Union Men of Western Virginia:*

VIRGINIANS! The general government has long enough endured the machinations of a few factious rebels in your midst. Armed traitors have in vain endeavored to deter you from expressing your loyalty at the polls. Having failed in this infamous attempt to deprive you of the exercise of your dearest rights, they now seek to inaugurate a reign of terror, and thus force you to yield to their schemes, and submit to the yoke of the traitorous conspiracy, dignified by the name of the Southern Confederacy.

“They are destroying the property of citizens of your state, and ruining your magnificent railways. The general government has heretofore carefully abstained from sending troops across the Ohio, or even from posting them along its banks, although frequently urged to do so by many of your prominent citizens.

“It determined to await the result of the late election, desirous that no one might be able to say, that the slightest effort had been made from this side to influence the free expression of your opinions, although the many agencies brought to bear upon you by the rebels were well known. You have now shown, under the most adverse circumstances, that the great mass of the people of Western Virginia, are true and loyal to that beneficent government, under which we and our fathers have lived so long.

“As soon as the result of the election was known, the traitors commenced their work of destruction. The general

government cannot close its ears to the demand you have made for assistance. I have ordered troops to cross the Ohio River. They come as your friends and brothers,—as enemies, only to the armed rebels who are preying upon you. Your homes, your families, and your property, are safe under our protection. All your rights shall be religiously respected, notwithstanding all that has been said by the traitors to induce you to believe that our advent among you will be signalized by interference with your slaves. Understand one thing clearly: Not only will we abstain from all such interference, but we will, on the contrary, with an iron hand, crush any attempt at insurrection on their part. Now that we are in your midst, I call upon you to fly to arms and support the general government. Sever the connection that binds you to traitors; proclaim to the world that the faith and loyalty so long boasted by the Old Dominion, are still preserved in Western Virginia, and that you remain true to the Stars and Stripes.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN,

*Major-General U. S. A. Comdg Dep't."*

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" ADDRESS.

*"Headquarters Department of the Ohio,  
Cincinnati, May 26, 1861.*

"SOLDIERS! You are ordered to cross the frontier, and enter upon the soil of Virginia. Your mission is to restore peace and confidence, to protect the majesty of the law, and to rescue our brethren from the grasp of armed traitors. You are to act in concert with Virginia troops, and to support their advance.

"I place under the safeguard of your honor, the persons and property of the Virginians. I know that you will respect their feelings and all their rights. Preserve the strictest discipline; remember that each one of you holds in his keeping the honor of Ohio and the Union. If you are called upon to overcome armed opposition, I know that your courage is equal to the task; but remember, that your only foes are the armed traitors, and show mercy, even to them when they are in *your* power, for many of them are misguided.

"When under your protection, the loyal men of Western Virginia have been enabled to organize and arm, they can protect themselves, and you can then return to your homes, with the proud satisfaction of having saved a gallant people from destruction.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,  
*"Major-General U. S. A. Commanding."*

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*"Headquarters Department of the Ohio,  
Grafton, Va., June 25th, 1861.*

"To the Soldiers of the Army of the West:

"You are here to support the government of your country and to protect the lives and liberties of your brethren, threatened by a rebellious and traitorous foe. No higher and nobler duty could devolve upon you, and I expect you to bring to its performance the highest and noblest qualities of soldiers—discipline, courage, and mercy.

"I call upon the officers of every grade to enforce the strictest discipline, and I know that those of all grades, privates and officers, will display in battle cool, heroic courage, and will know how to show mercy to a disarmed enemy. Bear in mind that you are in the country of friends, not of enemies; that you are here to protect, not to destroy.

"Take nothing, destroy nothing, unless you are ordered to do so by your general officers. Remember that I have pledged my word to the people of Western Virginia, that their rights in person and property shall be respected.

"I ask every one of you to make good this promise in its broadest sense. We come here to save, not to upturn. I do not appeal to the fear of punishment, but to your appreciation of the sacredness of the cause in which we are engaged.

"Carry with you into battle the conviction that you are right, and that God is on your side. Your enemies have violated every moral law—neither God nor man can sustain them. They have, without cause, rebelled against a mild and paternal government; they have seized upon public and private property; they have outraged the persons of Norther men, merely because they came from the North, and of Southern Union men, merely because they loved the Union; they have placed themselves beneath contempt unless they can retrieve

some honor on the field of battle. You will pursue a different course.

"You will be honest, brave, and merciful; you will respect the right of private opinion; you will punish no man for opinion's sake. Show to the world that you differ from our enemies in the points of honor, honesty, and respect for private opinion, and that we inaugurate no reign of terror where we go. Soldiers! I have heard that there was danger here. I have come to place myself at your head and to share it with you. I fear now but one thing—that you will not find foes worthy of your steel. I know that I can rely upon you.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,

*Major-General Commanding.*"

After his appointment to the command to the army of the Potomac. In a letter to the Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, he says, "unity in council, the utmost vigor and energy in action, are indispensable, the entire military field should be grasped as a whole, and not in detached parts. One plan should be agreed upon and pursued; a single will should direct and carry out these plans, the great object to be accomplished, the crushing defeat of the rebel army—now at Manassas—should never for one instant be lost sight of, but all the intellect and means of men of the government poured upon that point. The loyal states possess ample force to effect this, and more. The rebels have displayed energy, unanimity, and wisdom worthy of the most desperate days of the French Revolution. Should we do less? The unity of this nation, the preservation of our institutions, are so dear to me that I have willingly sacrificed my private happiness, with the single object of doing my duty to my country.

"When the task is accomplished, I shall be glad to return to the obscurity from which events have drawn me. Whatever the determination of the government may be, I will do the best I can with the army of the Potomac, and will share its fate, whatever may be the task imposed upon me."

Again, after his appointment to the command of the army of the Potomac, in his instructions to General Burnside, when he was about to make his descent upon the Carolina

coast, he says, "I would urge great caution in regard to proclamations. In no case would I go beyond a moderate joint proclamation with the naval commander, which should say as little as possible about politics or the negro. Merely state that the true issue for which we are fighting, is the preservation of the Union, and upholding the laws of the general government, and stating that all who conduct themselves properly, will, as far as possible, be protected in their persons and property."

General McClellan thus expresses himself to his army and to the world.

General McClellan was right. He was placed in command of the army of the Potomac for the purpose, as he supposed of suppressing, and crushing an insurrection and rebellion against the government of the United States.

He knew his duty and his whole duty, and so far as he was concerned, he was prepared and faithfully performed it. His whole duty consisted in giving battle and defeating, if possible, an armed foe in the field, not upon an unarmed and defenceless people or their property.

His method of warfare did not suit nor satisfy the fanatic element of New England, and they cried "traitor" and called it "kid glove fighting," and favoring the rebels. Was it a traitor to whom an army correspondent referred, when he made the following statement?

"When I say that General McClellan is beloved, trusted, and perfectly idolized by every common soldier in the army, I am not saying one whit more than the bare truth. They will follow him anywhere, and everywhere, for they know to a man, that he will not needlessly expose them to danger, no matter how great the peril, or difficult the task may seem, when he commands, they will cheerfully obey, and with the most unbounded confidence will face any danger or overcome any obstacle. In fact the feeling towards General McClellan partakes almost of adoration."

Was it a traitor commanding, kid glove fighting, and rebel favoring that filled our hospitals to overflowing, required the erection of the immense number of barracks and tents to shelter and accomodate the wounded and dying

soldiers? Was it a traitor commanding, and kid glove fighting during that memorable seven days of blood and slaughter on the Peninsula? Was it a traitor commanding, and kid glove fighting that carried the army of the Potomac to the walls and fortifications of Richmond, against an enemy equal in valor and superior in numbers? If so, when was it discovered? Was it before he was replaced at the head of the army after its defeats and failures under General Pope; when he was needed to fight the battle of Antietam, or after the Confederate army with ten thousand more men were defeated and had retreated across the Potomac?

It has been said by many that General McClellan allowed the rebels to escape, that he should have bagged General Lee and his whole army. General Lee was not the man to be bagged so easily, especially when he had the larger force. The most of the bagging was done by the other side, and it was not done while General McClellan was in command either.

The nation had cause for rejoicing, and a feeling of gratitude to General McClellan and his army for accomplishing what they did.

Now is there a man living of all those who have cried traitor who can tell of one act of General McClellan's that had the remotest appearance of disloyalty? The only act which bears any semblance of disloyalty to the government, or of disobedience to his Commander-in-Chief, Abraham Lincoln, was when he refused to retreat from before Richmond, or waited for the order to be repeated. If that was treason, then there is one instance where treason is justifiable. But it was nothing that he had done, or that he had left undone, up to July 3rd, 1862, which caused his removal from the command of the army of the Potomac; for previous to that time there had been no complaint, and on that day the President in a letter to General McClellan said: "I am satisfied that yourself, officers and men have done the best you could." He might have added, and all that I intended you should do. "All accounts say better fighting was never done; ten thousand thanks for it." So we see that up to that time President Lincoln was satisfied, and had no fault to find or complaint to make. Four days after receiving President Lincoln's ten thousand thanks, which he and his army richly deserved, General McClellan wrote a letter to the President

which sounded the knell that sealed his doom. A letter that aroused the indignation of the radicals of the North, and sent up a howl from the "wehr wolves" that echoed throughout the land denouncing him "traitor, kid glove fighter and a rebel favorer." The letter of General McClellan, to the President which caused him to be deposed and superceded in his command, and from which time Lincoln ceased almost entirely to communicate with him personally, I give in full, as published in McClellan's report.

"While General-in-Chief, and directing the operations of all our armies in the field, I had become deeply impressed with the importance of adopting and carrying out certain views regarding the conduct of the war, which, in my judgment, were essential to its objects and its success.

"During an active campaign of three months in the enemy's country, these were so fully confirmed that I conceived it a duty, in the critical position we then occupied, not to withhold a candid expression of the more important of these views from the Commander-in-Chief, whom the constitution places at the head of the armies and navies, as well as the government of the nation. The following is a copy of my letter to Mr. Lincoln."

*"Headquarters Army of the Potomac,  
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va.,  
July 7th, 1862.*

"MR. PRESIDENT: You have been fully informed, that the rebel army is in our front, with the purpose of overwhelming us by attacking our positions, or reducing us by blocking our river communications. I cannot but regard our condition as critical, and I earnestly desire, in view of possible contingencies, to lay before your Excellency, for your private consideration, my general views concerning the existing state of the rebellion, although they do not strictly relate to the situation of this army, or strictly come within the scope of my official duties. These views amount to convictions, and are deeply impressed upon my mind and heart. Our cause must never be abandoned; it is the cause of free institutions, and self-government. The constitution and the Union must be preserved, whatever may be the cost in time, treasure and blood.

If secession is successful other dissolutions are clearly to be seen in the future. Let neither military disaster, political faction, nor foreign war shake your settled purpose to enforce the equal operation of the laws of the United States upon the people of every State. The time has come when the government must determine upon a civil and military policy, covering the whole ground of our national trouble.

"The responsibility of determining, declaring and supporting such civil and military policy, and of directing the whole course of military affairs in regard to the rebellion must now be assumed and exercised by you, or our cause will be lost. The constitution gives you power sufficient even for the present terrible exigency. This rebellion has assumed the character of war; as such it should be regarded; and it should be conducted upon the highest principles known to Christian civilization. It should not be a war looking to the subjugation of the people of any State in any event. It should not be a war upon population, but against armed forces and political organizations.

"Neither confiscation of property, political executions of persons, territorial organizations of States, or forcible abolition of Slavery should be contemplated for a moment. In prosecuting the war, all private property and unarmed persons should be strictly protected, subject only to the necessity of military operations. All private property taken for military use should be paid or received for: pillage and waste should be treated as high crimes: all unnecessary trespass sternly prohibited, and offensive demeanor by the military towards citizens, promptly rebuked.

"Military arrests should not be tolerated, except in places where active hostilities exist, and oaths not required by enactments constitutionally made, should be neither demanded nor received. Military government should be confined to the preservation of public order and the protection of political rights; military power should not be allowed to interfere with the relations of servitude, either by supporting or impairing the authority of the master, except for repressing disorder, as in other cases.

"Slaves contraband under the act of Congress seeking military protection, should receive it. The rights of government to appropriate permanently to its own service, claims to slave labor, should be asserted, and the right of the owner to com-

pensation therefor should be recognized. This principle might be extended upon grounds of military necessity and security, to all the slaves within a particular State, thus working manumission in such State; and in Missouri, perhaps in Western Virginia also, and possibly even in Maryland, the expediency of such a pressure is only a question of time.

"A system of policy, thus constitutional and conservative, and pervaded by the influences of Christianity and freedom, would receive the support of almost all truly loyal men, would deeply impress the rebel masses and all foreign nations, and it might be humbly hoped that it would commend itself to the favor of the Almighty.

"Unless the principles governing the future conduct of our struggle shall be made known and approved, the effort to obtain requisite forces will be almost hopeless. A declaration of radical views, especially upon slavery, will rapidly disintegrate our present armies. The policy of the government must be supported by concentrations of military power. The national forces should not be dispersed in expeditions, posts of occupation, and numerous armies, but should be collected into masses, and brought to bear upon the armies of the confederate states. Those armies thoroughly defeated, the political structure which they support would soon cease to exist. In carrying out any system of policies which you may form you will require a commander-in-chief of the army; one who possesses your confidence, understands your views, and who is competent to execute your orders by directing the military forces of the nation to the accomplishment of the objects by you proposed. I do not ask that place for myself.

"I am willing to serve you in such position as you may assign me, and I will do so as faithfully as ever subordinate served superior. I may be on the brink of eternity, and as I hope for forgiveness from my Maker, I have written this letter with sincerity towards you, and from love for my country.

"Very Respectfully,

Your Ob't Servant,

G. B. McCLELLAN,

*Major-General Comd'g.*

"His Excellency, A. LINCOLN,

*President.*"

That was the letter and those the sentiments that sealed General McClellan's fate as a commander in the Union army, under the abolition government. General McClellan knew too much. He not only knew his own duty, the requirements and obligations of civilized warfare, but he also knew the duty and obligations of the President. He knew that Abraham Lincoln was placed at the head of the government and had taken an oath to administer the government according to the laws and the constitution. That if there was an unlawful revolt, rebellion and secession against the government, it was the duty of the President to make use of any and all lawful means necessary to suppress that rebellion, and to sustain and maintain the government and the Union, but not to make use of his position and power to carry on and prolong a war for selfish or for party purposes, and that every dollar expended for any other than the suppression of the rebellion and the maintenance of the Union, was a robbery of the people, and that every human life sacrificed, whether friend or foe, Union or Confederate, by the President for his own or party purposes, was perjury, treason and murder, and any man who encouraged, aided or abetted the carrying on or prolonging the war for any purpose, other than the suppression of the rebellion, the restoration of the Union, and the maintenance of the law, was guilty of the same.

Previous to McClellan's letter of July seventh to the President, Lincoln had been in almost daily correspondence with General McClellan.

On July fourth the General wrote the following letter to the President which elicited two friendly replies which show the kindly regard of the President at that time for McClellan.

*"Headquarters, Army of the Potomac,  
Harrison's Bar, James River, July 4th, 1862.*

“ TO THE PRESIDENT: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 2d instant, I shall make a stand at this place and endeavor to give my men the repose they so much require. After sending my communication on Tuesday, the enemy attacked the left of our line, and a fierce battle ensued, lasting until night; they were repulsed with great slaughter. Had their attack succeeded, the con-

sequences would have been disastrous in the extreme. This closed the hard fighting which had continued from the afternoon of the 26th ult., in a daily series of engagements, wholly unparalleled on this continent for determination and slaughter on both sides. The mutual loss, in killed and wounded, is enormous. That of the enemy certainly greatest. On Tuesday evening the 1<sup>st</sup>, our army commenced its movement from Haxall's to this point. Our line of defense there, being too extended to be maintained by our weakened forces. Our train was immense, and about 4 P. M. on the 2d, a heavy storm of rain began, which continued through the entire day and until the forenoon of yesterday.

"The road became horrible. Troops, artillery, and wagons, moved on steadily, and our whole army, men and material, was finally brought safe into this camp. The last of the wagons reached here at noon yesterday. The exhaustion was very great but the army preserved its morale, and would have repelled any attack which the enemy was in condition to make. We now occupy a line of heights about two miles from the James, a plain extending from there to the river. Our fort is about three miles long. These heights command our whole position and must be maintained.

"The gun-boats can render valuable support upon both flanks. If the enemy attack us in front, we must hold our ground as best we may, and at whatever cost. Our positions can be carried only by overwhelming numbers. The spirit of the army is excellent.

"Stragglers are finding their regiments, and the soldiers exhibit the best results of discipline.

"Our position is by no means impregnable, especially as a morass extends on this side of the high ground, from our center to the James on our right. The enemy may attack in vast numbers, and if so our front will be the scene of a desperate battle, which if lost will be decisive. Our army is fearfully weakened by killed, wounded, and prisoners. I cannot now approximate to any statement of our losses, but we were not beaten in any conflict. The enemy were unable by their utmost effort to drive us from the field.

"Never did such a change of base, involving a retrograde movement, and under incessant attacks from a most determined and vastly more numerous foe, partake so little of disorder. We have lost no guns, except twenty-five on the

field of battle, twenty-one of which were lost by the giving away of McCall's division under the onset of superior numbers.

"Our communications by the James River are not secure. There are points where the enemy can establish themselves with cannon or musketry, and command the river, and where it is not certain that our gun-boats can drive them out. In case of this, or in case our front is broken, I will still make every effort to preserve at least the personnel of the army, and the events of the last few days leave no question that the troops will do all that their country can ask. Send such reinforcements as you can."

"I will do what I can. We are shipping our wounded and sick, and landing supplies. The navy department should co-operate with us to the extent of its resources. Captain Rodgers is doing all in his power, in the kindest and most efficient manner.

"When all the circumstances of the case are known, it will be acknowledged by all competent judges that the movement just completed is unparalleled in the annals of war.

"Under the most difficult circumstances, we have preserved our trains, our guns, our material, and above all, our honor.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,  
*Major-General.*"

To the above, General McClellan received the following replies:

"Washington, July 5, 1862, 9 A. M.

"MAJ.-GEN. G. B. McCLELLAN,

*Commanding Army of the Potomac:*

"A thousand thanks for the relief your two dispatches of 12 and 1 P. M. yesterday, gave me.

"Be assured, the heroism of yourself, officers, and men, is and ever will be appreciated.

"If you can hold your present position, we shall hive the enemy yet.

"A. LINCOLN."

The following letter was dated the day before the previous one :

“ WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington City, D. C., *July 4th, 1862.*

“ MAJOR-GENERAL McCLELLAN:

“ I understand your position, as stated in your letter, and by General Marcy.

“ To reinforce you so as to enable you to resume the offensive within a month, or even six weeks, is impossible.

“ In addition to that arrived and now arriving from the Potomac, (about ten thousand, I suppose,) and about ten thousand I hope you will have from Burnside very soon, and about five thousand from Hunter a little later. I do not see how I can send you another man within a month.

“ Under these circumstances, the defensive for the present, must be your only care. Save the army first, where you are, if you can, and, secondly, by removal, if you must. You on the ground must be the judge as to which you will attempt, and of the means for effecting it, I but give it as my opinion, that with the aid of the gun-boats and the reinforcements mentioned above, you can hold your present position provided, and so long as you can keep the James River open below you. If you are not tolerably confident you can keep the James River open, you had better remove as soon as possible. I do not remember that you have expressed any apprehension as to the danger of having your communication cut on the river below you, yet I do not suppose it can have escaped your attention.

“ Yours very truly,

“ A. LINCOLN.”

“ P. S. If at any time you feel able to take the offensive, you are not restrained from doing so. A. L.”

On July seventh General McClellan sent the following dispatch :

“ Headquarters Army of the Potomac,

Berkley, *July 7th, 1862, 8:30 A. M.*

“ As boat is starting I had only time to acknowledge receipt of dispatch of General Marcy. Enemy have not attacked.

My position is very strong and daily becoming more so. If not attacked to-day, I shall laugh at them. I have been anxious about my communications.

"Had long consultation about it with Flag Officer Goldsborough last night; he is confident he can keep river open. He should have all gun-boats possible, will see him again this morning. My men in splendid spirits, and anxious to try it again. Alarm yourself as little as possible about me, and don't lose confidence in this army."

"G. B. McCLELLAN,  
*Major-General.*"

"A. LINCOLN, *President.*"

On July eleventh General McClellan telegraphed to the President as follows:

"*Headquarters Army of the Potomac,*  
*Berkley, July 11th, 1862, 3 P. M.*

"We are very strong here so far as defensive is concerned. Hope you will soon make us strong enough to advance and try it again.

"All in fine spirits.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,  
*Major-General Comd'g.*"

"A. LINCOLN, *President.*"

On the twelfth McClellan again telegraphed to the President as follows:

"*Headquarters Army of the Potomac,*  
*Berkley, July 12th, 1862, 7:15 A. M.*

"Hill and Longstreet crossed into New Kent County via Long Bridge. I am still ignorant what road they afterwards took, but will know shortly.

"Nothing else of interest since last dispatch. Rain ceased and everything quiet. Men resting well, but beginning to be impatient for another fight.

"I am more and more convinced that this army ought not to be withdrawn from here; but promptly reinforced and

thrown again upon Richmond. If we have a little more than half a chance, we can take it. I dread the effects of any retreat upon the morale of the men.

"G. B. McCLELLAN,

"A. LINCOLN, *President.*"

*Maj.-Gen. Comd'g.*"

We see that up to July 5th, 1862, the President was entirely satisfied with General McClellan and the army. He had no complaint to make, and no words but praise and encouragement, and had been in constant communication with McClellan personally, until he, McClellan, wrote the letter of July 7th, when all correspondence or answers to his numerous dispatches ceased, and it was not until July 30th, that he received any reply, and then from General Halleck. According to General McClellan's report, it was not until August 29th, that Lincoln deigned to notice him, and then only by the following insignificant dispatch :

"Washington, Aug. 29th, 1862, 2:30 P. M.

"MAJ.-GEN. McCLELLAN:

"What news from direction of Manassas Junction? What generally?"

"A. LINCOLN."

To which McClellan replied as follows:

"Camp near Alexandria, Aug. 29, 1862, 2:45 P. M.

"The last news I received from the direction of Manassas was from stragglers, to the effect that the enemy were evacuating Centreville and retiring towards Thoro'fare Gap. This by no means reliable. I am clear that one of two courses should be adopted: 1st, to concentrate all our available forces, to open communication with Pope; 2d, to leave Pope to get out of his scrape, and at once use all our means to make the capital perfectly safe. No middle ground will now answer. Tell me what you wish me to do and I will do all in my power to accomplish it. I wish to know what my orders and authority are. I ask for nothing but will obey whatever orders you give. I only ask a prompt decision, that I may at once give the necessary orders. It will not do to delay any longer.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,

"A. LINCOLN, *President.*"

*Major-General.*"

To which the following was the President's reply, and the last and only personal communication from Lincoln to General McClellan, while he retained the command of the army of the Potomac.

Washington, *Aug. 29th, 1862, 4:10 P. M.*

MAJ.-GEN. McCLELLAN:

"Your's of to-day just received. I think your first alternative, to wit: "To concentrate all our available forces to open communication with Pope," is the right one, but I wish not to control. That I now leave to Halleck, aided by your counsels.

"A. LINCOLN."

Once more after General McClellan's removal from the command of the army of the Potomac, or the removal of the army of the Potomac from General McClellan's command, after the bloody battle of South Mountain, and just before the battle of Antietam, for which purpose General McClellan was replaced in command for that occasion, Lincoln condescended to notice him by the following dispatch:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, *Sept. 15th, 1862, 2:45 P. M.*

"Your dispatches of to-day received. God bless you and all with you. Destroy the rebel army if possible.

"A. LINCOLN."

## C H A P T E R X I.

THUS ended all personal correspondence between Lincoln and General McClellan.

Up to the date of McClellan's letter of July seventh, to the President, Lincoln had found no cause for complaint, and had made none, but on the contrary had praised and thanked him, his officers and men, and said in his communications that they had done all that it was in the power of men to do. After all that acknowledgment, we find that three weeks from that time, General McClellan was virtually removed from command, and the brutal, ignorant, incompetent, but boastful Pope, placed in command of the army of Virginia. Thus we see that not only a change of commanders, but the name of the brave army that had served so heroically under General McClellan must be changed, and, so far as possible, every vestige of appearance of the old army of the Potomac blotted out. That army had been wrongly instructed. They had been taught that war should be conducted according to the rules of modern civilized warfare. That teaching, and influence had imparted a moral restraint upon the army, and the soldiers up to that time had entertained no thought that they were there for any other purpose than the restoration and preservation of the Union. A change was now to come over the spirit of their dreams. That teaching and influence was gone.

The mode of warfare was to be changed to one of theft, plunder and arson.

The wicked rebels must be punished, for daring to presume to object to and resist the abuse, injury, and insult to which they had ever been subjected by the fanatic element of New England, and for presuming to object to their sending their John Browns, or any other emissaries, which they might choose, to incite their negroes to insurrection and murder, and a repetition of the horrors of a San Domingo massacre, or for daring to assert the same right for a separation, which right the North had repeatedly asserted for themselves, and

a right which they never denied or disputed. It was only the might. It was fear that kept Jefferson Davis in prison for so many long months in violation of law and the constitution.

They dared not bring him to trial, for they well knew that the day they placed him before a tribunal, they placed themselves on trial before the whole world, and the method which they finally adopted to release him, was but a farce to get an elephant off their hands.

Such was their teaching for the future. Revenge and cruelty was to take the place of civilized warfare.

An order from Washington to the commanders directed the seizure and confiscation of any property wherever they could find it, belonging to citizens of the Southern Confederacy. That order caused the whole civilized world to look upon the Government issuing it with surprise and contempt.

Such was the mode of warfare carried on and conducted in the fifth century by Lincoln's great prototype, Attila king of the Huns, and so-called "Scourge of God," and whose spirit, through mediums, directed Lincoln's actions.

It was a mode of warfare which suited the "wehr wolves" of the North and for which they had continually howled. They not only wanted blood, but to satisfy their craving they must also have plunder.

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